GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2377
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
WIRELESS TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wireless connections provided in the country including Uttar Pradesh during the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to enhance the quality of telephone services in the country including Uttar Pradesh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ANDINFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) During the year 2008-09 (from 01.04.2008 to 31.10.2008), total 64.65 million wireless connections have been provided in the country. The Circle/State-wise details of wireless connections provided during the year 2008-09 (from 01.04.2008 to 31.10.2008) are given in the enclosed Annexure.

(b) The following steps are taken/ being taken by the Government to enhance the quality of telephone services in the country:

(i) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of mobile service providers against the quality of service benchmarks notified in the Regulations issued by TRAI, through quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports obtained from telecom operators. TRAI also monitors the congestion at the point of interconnection (POI) through monthly congestion report. The telecom service providers are making efforts to improve the quality by continuously augmenting their mobile network infrastructure and optimizing the same to meet the specified standards set by TRAI.

(ii) Support is being provided by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), where cost of providing telephone is more than revenue earned and to set up 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) spread over 500 districts spread over 27 states (including 666 towers in Uttar Pradesh), for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage in the country. Also, about 11000 number of additional infrastructure sites (towers) (including 733 towers in Uttar Pradesh) are proposed to be installed in the second phase.

(iii) More Base Transceivers Station (BTS) are planned by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to enhance the coverage of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) System.

(iv) Deployment of Mobile Network along all the Highways by BSNL to give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.

(v) Mobile network is being monitored for traffic congestion, optimized and necessary corrective measures are taken by BSNL to improve the Quality of Service.

(vi) Expansion of Cellular Mobile Network by BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to overcome the network congestion caused due to ever growing demand and traffic.

(vii) Improvement of the outdoor network by BSNL and MTNL by change of cables, drop wire etc. as required to reduce the fault rate.

(viii) MTNL is providing a number of Value Added Services for both Landline & Mobile subscribers such as news, songs, astrology, e-ticketing, Short Message Service (SMS), Voice SMS, Internet, Broadband, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) etc.

(ix) MTNL is also taking care of its customers by opening customer service centres, appointment of dealers & agents etc.